

## MINUTES

Kentucky Oral History Commission  
Harrodsburg, Kentucky  
December 3, 1993

Attending: Commission Members: Lynwood Montell, Chair  
Judi Jennings, Vice-chair  
Richard Brown  
Thomas D. Clark  
Jim Klotter  
Jim Nelson  
Emily Parker  
Doug Stern

Advisors: Terry Bridwhistell	Staff: Kim Lady Smith
William Buster	Enoch Harned
Sharon Whitehead	Kathleen Bond

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Chairman Lynwood Montell. Jim Klotter moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and that they be approved as circulated. Richard Brown seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

Montell then welcomed Sharon Whitehead, a recent appointee to the advisory board, and introduced her to members.

Members next joined Jim Klotter in congratulating Kim Lady Smith on her position as president of the national Oral History Association for 1994.

At this time members considered the director's report. Under the financial section, Smith noted that an emergency grant to Randall Norris for a project entitled "Women of Coal" had been awarded for \$2,454 leaving a grant balance for fiscal year 1994 of \$59,246. Smith also reported that the Main Street Oral History Project was progressing according to schedule and that she was working with the Kentucky Derby Museum to organize a project on African-Americans in the thoroughbred industry with an emphasis on backside occupations. She noted that the subcommittee on legislative history had met, but did not feel it was appropriate to pursue a comprehensive project on the subject in the immediate future. It was also noted that John Ed Pearce had agreed to have his name associated with an oral history award and that the subcommittee on this award would consider criteria and report at the next commission meeting.

Next, members considered an extension request from Ethel White for the project on Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. White requested that the completion date be extended to July 30, 1994. It was proving difficult to schedule interviews with Governor Brown and additional time was required. After discussion, Jim Klotter moved to approve the extension request. Emily Parker seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

Smith then asked members to consider a request from the Kentucky Junior Historical Society that the commission sponsor a cash award for their oral history award category for convention competition. Smith recommended that the commission consider a \$50 award. After discussion, Emily Parker moved that the request be approved as recommended by Smith. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the commission with Jim Klotter abstaining.

At this time, members considered the grant applications before the commission.

### **The Black Patch Tobacco War in Caldwell County**

Ardell Jarratt requested \$2,320 (\$1,720 cash, \$600 equipment) to conduct thirty interviews on the Black Patch Tobacco War in Caldwell County with an emphasis on the experiences of African-Americans and women. Jim Nelson explained that the Application Review Committee recommended approval of the application. During the discussion, members expressed concern over the lack of eye witnesses to the events in question and the need for the project in light of recent scholarship on the Black Patch Wars. After discussion, Dr. Thomas Clark moved that the application be approved contingent upon submission of further documentation of the project directors knowledge of the subject and interviewing ability in this particular area. Jim Klotter seconded the motion, approved by the commission. It was noted that Smith and Klotter would determine if the submitted materials satisfied commission concerns.

### **Oral History at Hall, Jessamine County, Kentucky**

Kim McBride requested \$2,841 to conduct interviews with ten or more individuals associated with Hall, Kentucky, an African-American hamlet established after the Civil War near the site of the Camp Nelson Refugee Camp, the "Home for Colored Refugees." Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended funding in the amount of \$1,841, reducing the requested stipend from \$75 to \$50. Doug Stern moved that the application be approved as recommended by the review committee. Richard Brown seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was approved by the commission.

## **Country Doctors and Country Nurses: Oral Histories of Health Care Providers in Rural Kentucky**

Tom Arcury, Dr. Cynthia Cole, and Dr. Raymond Olesinski from the University of Kentucky Center for Rural Health requested \$5,000 to collect 60 interviews with health care providers in rural counties throughout Kentucky. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended that the application be approved. Judi Jennings moved to approve the application, seconded by Jim Klotter. After discussion, the motion was approved by the commission.

## **Health Perceptions of Appalachian Migrants**

Dr. Henry Troyer and Tom Arcury from the University of Kentucky Center for Rural Health requested \$2,588 to conduct interviews with professionals from Appalachian Kentucky who have lived outside of the region for at least five years. The interviews would document their perceptions of the particular health risk factors facing residents of Appalachia in order to gain insights into the psychosocial characteristics that are associated with general poor health. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee did not recommend funding, but would encourage the applicants to further refine and justify the proposal. Members questioned the applicability of oral history to this type of study and the relevancy of professional perceptions in regards to cultural characteristics related to health care. The committee also would encourage Tom Arcury to include some of these questions in the interviews with health care providers. After discussion, Richard Brown moved that the application be rejected in accordance with the recommendation of the review committee. Judi Jennings seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

## **Ridgewood - A Historical Case Study of an Institution Which Provides a Context for Understanding the Intersections of Race, Gender, and Disability**

Jan Goings, a doctoral student in Special Education at Syracuse University, requested \$4,838 to interview ten people in Louisville associated with Ridgewood, a former residential school for African-American children who were in dependency, neglectful, and delinquency family situations in the early twentieth century. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended approval of the application in the amount of \$3,274. This sum would support two interviewing trips to Louisville, the requested stipend, and recording equipment. Emily Parker moved that the application be approved as recommended by the review committee, seconded by Judi Jennings. After discussion, the motion was approved by the commission.

## **Horse Lick Creek Oral History Project**

Jim Hays, director of the Horse Lick Creek Bioreserve for The Nature Conservancy in Lexington, requested \$2,580 to collect thirty interviews with people who live or have lived in the Horse Lick Creek area of Jackson County. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee felt the project lacked focus and required professional guidance, but that the subject matter was significant. Therefore, the committee recommended a grant of \$676 which would support the collection of ten interviews in what would be considered a pilot project. It was also recommended that Bob Gates, state folklorist, be asked to consult with the project director. Emily Parker moved that the application be approved as recommended by the review committee. Jim Klotter seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was approved by the commission.

## **New Voices: Documenting the Life Experiences of Bowling Green's Immigrant and Refugee Residents**

Robin Fanslow, a graduate student in the Folk Studies Program at Western Kentucky University, requested \$1,652 to conduct 30 interviews with immigrants and/or refugees from Asia, Latin America and the former Soviet Union now living in Bowling Green. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended rejection of the application because it was considered too general in nature, covering a highly diverse group of people who made up a small portion of the population of the larger community. During the discussion, several members spoke of the importance of documenting the experiences of recent immigrants. Many expressed a desire to support the project if the proposal were better focused. After discussion, Judi Jennings moved to approve the application contingent upon a proposal revision which would do one of the following: limit the study to one immigrant group, limit the study to immigrants who had lived in Bowling Green during a specific period of time, limit the study to a particular theme. Jim Klotter seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

## **The Small Town in Kentucky Oral History Project - Continuation**

Bill Ellis and the Eastern Kentucky University Oral History Center requested \$8,000 to complete the Small Town in Kentucky Project with interviews in five western Kentucky communities -- Clinton, Lone Oak, Cadiz, Elkton, and Burkesville. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended approval of the application in two payments, \$5,300 at this time and \$2,700 in the spring of 1994 or July 1994. After discussion, Richard Brown

moved to approve the application as recommended by the review committee. Emily Parker seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

### **The Last Days at South Union Transcribing Project**

Tommy Hines, director of Shakertown at South Union, requested \$1,440 to transcribe 22 interviews conducted by Sarah McNulty Crowder with persons in the community knowledgeable about South Union prior to its demise as a Shaker village in 1922. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended approval of the application and moved for its approval. Judi Jennings seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was approved.

### **Kentucky Writers Transcribing Project**

Jeff Suchanek and the University of Kentucky Oral History Program requested \$3,480 to transcribe 58 hours of interviews with Kentucky writers conducted by Linda Beattie. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended approval of the application. Judi Jennings moved that the application be approved, seconded by Doug Stern. After discussion, the motion was approved by the commission.

### **Kentucky Heritage Farm Oral History Transcribing Project**

Jeff Suchanek and the University of Kentucky Oral History Program requested \$3,420 to transcribe 57 hours of interviews from the Heritage Farm component of the family farm project. Jim Nelson explained that the review committee recommended approval. Thomas Clark moved to approve the application. Emily Parker seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was approved by the commission.

At this time, Lynwood Montell asked the commission to consider awarding a grant of \$1,000 to the Oral History Association to support the 1994 annual meeting. Smith explained that the funds would be used to support program activities such as the presidential reception or fees to featured speakers. After discussion. Emily Parker moved to approve an award of \$1,000 to the Oral History Association. Doug Stern seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

Chairman Montell then thanked the review committee for its work this past year and appointed the following to the 1994 application review committee: Richard Brown, chair; Jim Klotter, Jim Gifford, Debbie McGuffey, Bill Ellis, and Sharon Whitehead.

Members next considered advisory board appointments. Smith recommended reappointment of all five members whose terms had expired - - Jim Hammack, Carl Ryant, Bill Ellis, Lew Wallace, and Sam Thomas. After discussion, Dr. Clark moved that advisory board members be reappointed as recommended by Smith. Jim Nelson seconded the motion, approved by the commission. Smith then informed members that Carl Ryant was seriously ill. She was instructed by the commission to send Carl a letter acknowledging his contributions to oral history in Kentucky and to the Oral History Commission.

In the absence of all three members of the nominating committee, Chairman Montell called on Smith to give the report of the committee. Smith reported that the committee had recommended Lynwood Montell for the office of chair and Judi Jennings for the office of vice-chair. During the discussion, members considered the advisability of limiting the number of years a member could hold the office of chair and/or vice-chair. Montell expressed his preference for a limitation of four consecutive years. After discussion, Dr. Clark moved to adopt the report of the nominating committee and to consider a by-laws revision regarding terms of office at the spring meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Nelson, approved by the commission. Chairman Montell then appointed to the 1994 nominating committee Jim Nelson, chair; Doug Stern, and Emily Parker.

Montell then announced to the commission that in late December he would be re-marrying the mother of his children. After congratulations were offered, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members and Advisors  
FROM: Kim Lady Smith  
DATE: January 10, 1994

My apologies for the delay in providing you with the minutes from the December 3 commission meeting.

You will note in the minutes that members were informed of Carl Ryant's illness. I am sorry to write that Carl passed away on December 2. On behalf of the commission, I sent a card and letter of condolence to his wife.